

# News Release



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Cooperative Fact Sheet: <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/Climatechange/pdf/DoINorthPacificLCC.pdf>

## **New Coordinator Appointed for the North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative** *Washington Natural Resources Policy Director Accepts Interagency Role*

John Mankowski has been appointed to be the new Coordinator of the North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today. As coordinator of the cooperative, Mankowski will lead a partnership effort to obtain the science needed to respond to climate change and other threats to fish and wildlife and their habitats and to support large, landscape-scale conservation.

The cooperative is an innovative partnership among state and federal agencies, tribes, nongovernmental organizations, universities and others stretching from southeast Alaska to northern California, including vast coastal ecosystems. It is designed to inform natural resource management needs to address climate change and other environmental stressors within and across large connected natural areas. Learn more about the cooperative at: <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/Climatechange/nplcc/>

For the past five years, Mankowski has served as Natural Resources Advisor to Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire.

“John Mankowski is a seasoned collaborator in natural resource management and brings extraordinary skills in consensus building and partnership approaches,” said Robyn Thorson, Regional Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service’s Pacific Region. “He has expertise working at all levels of government and he has a strong background in policies and laws related to endangered species, forestry, water management, environmental protection, agriculture, energy, fish and wildlife.”

Regional Director Thorson called Mankowski a recognized leader in bringing diverse groups of people together to promote conservation and the wise stewardship of natural resources across political boundaries. “John has a proven reputation for bringing people together and getting things done,” Thorson said.

Lisa Graumlich, Dean of the University of Washington’s College of the Environment, which is helping support the coordinator position, says Mankowski will provide an important connection between UW and other university and agency scientists at the forefront of climate science and partners throughout the northwest who need this information to manage natural resources.

“I’m excited about John’s appointment,” Graumlich said. “I’m always looking for opportunities to build strong connections between our science programs and the parties working on the North Pacific LCC and similar efforts across the northwest. In these times of limited budgets, changing environmental conditions and increased public expectations, we need to leverage opportunities to make sure the science we produce moves quickly into the hands and minds of those who need it.”

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) are self-directed conservation partnerships supported by the Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies to address the challenges of climate change in an integrated fashion across broad areas. The 21 LCCs across the nation provide scientific information and technical support to better understand species and habitat responses to climate change and other ecological changes (such as changing fire regimes and spread of invasive species). These cooperatives provide the scientific basis needed to help inform the development of strategic, landscape-scale conservation efforts on the ground.

Mankowski has worked in various capacities for the State of Washington for more than 20 years. Before becoming Gov. Gregoire’s principal advisor on natural resource and environmental issues in 2006, he was the Environmental Policy lead for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. He also served in a variety of science and management positions for natural resource agencies in Idaho, Alaska and Arizona before moving to Washington.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Renewable Natural Resources with an extended major in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Arizona. He completed graduate studies in Wildlife Resources Management at the University of Idaho.

Mankowski begins his new position September 19. He replaces Michael Carrier, who left the position last May to become the Assistant Regional Director for Fisheries in the Fish and Wildlife Service’s Pacific Region.

*The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov). Connect with our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/usfws](http://www.facebook.com/usfws), follow our tweets at [www.twitter.com/usfwshq](http://www.twitter.com/usfwshq), watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwshq>*

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